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**Master of Arts in English**

2012-2013 Handbook
“GO CONFIDENTLY IN THE DIRECTION OF YOUR DREAMS.”
HENRY DAVID THOREAU
WALDEN
Graduate Study leading to the Master of Arts in English at California State University, Long Beach, is marked by a committed faculty, small classes, and engaged students. The program is designed to broaden and deepen your understanding of the intellectual, cultural, and aesthetic traditions of British literature, American literature, and rhetoric and composition.

Students in the program develop advanced skills in critical reading and writing as well as in scholarly research. You may include courses on Writing, English Instruction, Technical and Professional Writing, and Rhetoric and Composition in your approved program.

The program meets the needs of students who seek any of the following:

- Careers in teaching English, including Literature, and Rhetoric and Composition
- Further graduate study leading to the PhD in English
- A broad background of humanistic studies, along with critical thinking and writing skills, as training for careers in business and the professions
- Personal satisfaction and depth of learning, apart from immediate vocational considerations

This brochure offers a concise summary of the English Department’s MA program including both requirements and opportunities. Students considering the pursuit of an MA in English will find that this brochure answers many questions, but it is not a binding contract nor a complete statement of requirements. To make sure they are up-to-date on changes in requirements and making satisfactory progress toward the degree, students should consult University Catalog regulations concerning graduate study and see a graduate advisor in the English Department at least once a semester.
GOALS

The MA in English is designed to broaden students’ knowledge and understanding of the literary and rhetorical traditions of writing in English, as well as to provide the opportunity for intensive study in one or more specialized areas of literature or rhetoric and composition. The MA program emphasizes close reading and critical analysis by developing students’ abilities to situate texts within their larger historical and professional contexts, to conduct independent research, and to formulate original arguments in oral presentations and writing.

OUTCOMES

By the end of their MA program students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with a wide range of representative literary and rhetorical texts, including influential criticism of and commentary on those texts
2. Examine the theoretical premises underlying the critical analysis of literature, rhetoric, and/or the teaching of reading and writing
3. Analyze the functions of texts and their relations with historical, social, and political contexts
4. Analyze how purpose, style, and genre function in texts to achieve particular literary, rhetorical, and aesthetic effects
5. Locate, evaluate, and synthesize the available resources for researching a significant scholarly topic
6. Write papers that construct logical and informed arguments
7. Prepare and deliver effective oral presentations and arguments acceptable within the English professions
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Baccalaureate Degree
As an applicant to the English Department MA Program, you are expected to have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with 21 units of upper-division English courses. Students whose BA is not in English will need to complete prerequisite courses to bring their upper-division English courses to 21 units. These will be determined by the Graduate Advisor in consultation with the Graduate Studies committee. Courses used to remove course or unit deficiencies may not be included in the MA program.

3.3 GPA or Above
Applicants are expected to have a 3.3 grade point average in upper-division English courses. Students who are conditionally admitted to the MA program with deficiencies to make up must maintain a 3.3 GPA in those make-up courses. Applicants whose upper-division GPA is at least 3.0 may be admitted to the MA program if they take the GRE General Test and achieve a minimum score of 158 in Verbal Reasoning and 5.0 in Analytical Writing.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

(You must be admitted to the English MA program before you can be enrolled in 600-level courses.)

Application to Pursue Post-Baccalaureate Study
You must submit to the University’s Office of Enrollment Services a graduate application (available online at www.csumentor.edu) to pursue post-baccalaureate study. After the Office of Enrollment Services approves your application, the English Department will evaluate it and determine whether or not you are admitted to the MA program.

Transcripts
You must submit a set of complete and official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended to the Office of Enrollment Services. You do not, however, need to send official transcripts of courses taken at CSULB.
All students accepted into the MA program are required to meet with an advisor during their first semester to discuss strengths and weaknesses and to plan a preliminary course of study. Letters of acceptance will include the name of your initial advisor. Please make an appointment through the graduate secretary (562-985-4225).

After the first semester, you are free to choose an advisor other than the one initially assigned to you; you must choose your particular graduate advisor before advancement to candidacy. The Department of English keeps an updated list of faculty available to graduate students as advisors and mentors.

Throughout their programs, students are encouraged to seek guidance from advisors on choosing courses and meeting degree requirements. By meeting at least once a year, preferably once a semester, with your advisor, you will be informed about any changes in regulations applying to the MA degree, whether these originate inside or outside the Department. You are also welcome to consult with faculty on the intellectual, social, and personal aspects of working for the degree.
RESEARCH SKILLS

All MA students are expected to know basic methods of library research, which include using print and on-line bibliographies to locate books and journal articles. Students should also be familiar with the MLA style of documentation. If you do not already own a copy, you are encouraged to purchase and use The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, ed. Joseph Gibaldi. Leslie Swigart in the library can help with questions about research resources and methods; she can be reached at (562) 985-8327 or leslie.swigart@csulb.edu. Faculty may also be consulted if you have questions about research methods or documentation rules.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
(See p. 16 of this Handbook for a worksheet listing these requirements)

**Upper-Division and Graduate Courses**
Students must have a minimum of 30 units of approved upper-division and graduate courses with at least 24 units in English to obtain the MA degree. No courses previously used to satisfy BA requirements may be retaken for graduate credit. Double-numbered courses (400/500) must be taken at the 500 level for MA credit. If a student has taken the 400-level component of a double-numbered course as an undergraduate at CSULB, she or he may not take the 500-level course for credit. Only specified 400-level courses may be counted toward the MA; these courses are listed on p. 7 of this Handbook. Other undergraduate courses may be taken for graduate credit if students obtain permission to do so in advance. To have an undergraduate course approved for graduate credit, students must submit to the Graduate Advisor a memo from the course instructor explaining what extra work the student was assigned in order to meet graduate standards. Note that General Education courses cannot be applied to the MA degree.

**English 696 Requirement**
Students must take English 696: Seminar in Literary, Criticism, and Research prior to, or concurrent with, other 600-series courses. Students must be admitted to the MA program in order to enroll in English 696. Plan on taking this course early in your program.

**600-Level Courses**
Of the required 30 units, at least 20 must be at the 600-level (this includes English 696 but not English 697 or 698).

**Seminar in British Literature**
Students must take at least one seminar in the 600-series in British Literature before 1800. English 697 (Directed Research) and English 698 (Thesis) may NOT be used to fulfill this course requirement. The following seminars are eligible:

- ENGL 652 English Renaissance
- ENGL 653 The Age of Milton
- ENGL 655 Restoration and Eighteenth Century Literature
- ENGL 681 Major Authors (for a British author active before 1800)
- ENGL 683 Special Topics in Literature (if topic concerns British Literature before 1800)
Additional Units

Students must take additional acceptable units to make up a minimum of 30 units. Up to 6 units approved for graduate standing may come from other departments, other campuses, or extension programs, if approved as relevant to a degree objective (i.e., Area of Concentration). Outside courses, however, may not fulfill the 24-unit requirement of 600- and 500-level courses in English. Students whose degree interests require more than 6 units outside the Department of English should consider an Interdisciplinary Studies Master of Arts. All upper-division and graduate courses taken as a post-baccalaureate student affect the overall GPA.

COURSES ACCEPTABLE FOR THE ENGLISH MA

Graduate Courses
Some graduate courses are not available every semester. A three-year rotation plan of graduate seminar offerings is available in the Department of English.

Department of English Graduate Courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>510</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Theories of Writing and Literacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>511</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Research Methods in Rhetoric &amp; Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>523</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Semantics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>526</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>History of the English Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>535</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Theories and Practices in Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>537</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Special Topics (related to the teaching of English)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>550</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Old English Language and Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>551</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Middle English Language and Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>552</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Literature of the Renaissance: 1500-1603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>553</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Literature of the Late Renaissance: 1603-1660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>554</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Medieval Literature of the British Isles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>555</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>English Literature of the Enlightenment: 1660-1798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>556</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>English Literature of the Romantic Period: 1798-1832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>558</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>English Poetry &amp; Prose of the Victorian Age: 1832-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>559</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>English Literature of the Twentieth Century: 1900-Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>562</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Chaucer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>566</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Irish Literature in English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>567A</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>The British Novel to 1832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>567B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>The British Novel since 1832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>568</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>English Drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>572</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>American Literature: 1820-1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>573</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>American Literature: 1865-1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>574</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Twentieth-Century American Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>575</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>The American Short Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>576A</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>American Poetry to 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>576B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>American Poetry since 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>577A</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>The American Novel to 1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>577B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>The American Novel since 1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>578</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>American Drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>584</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Contemporary Literary Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>598</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>Directed Studies in Creative Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>652</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Seminar in the English Renaissance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>653</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Seminar in the Age of Milton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>655</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Seminar in Restoration and 18th Century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>656</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Seminar in Romantic Literature</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Department of English Graduate Courses (continued):

657  4    Seminar in Victorian Literature
659  4    Seminar in Twentieth-Century English Literature
671  4    Seminar in Digital Rhetoric
672  4    Seminar in the Nineteenth-Century American Renaissance
673  4    Seminar in American Realism
674  4    Seminar in Twentieth-Century American Literature
681  4    Seminar in Major Authors
683  4    Seminar in Special Topics in English Studies
684  4    Seminar in Advanced Critical Theory
685  4    Seminar in Rhetorical History and Theory
696  4    Seminar in Literary Criticism and Research
697  1-3 Directed Research
698  1-6  Thesis

Please note that English 505A, 505B, 506A, 506B, 605A, 605B, 606A, and 606B are reserved for students enrolled in the MFA program.

Comparative Literature Department Graduate Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>501</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Advanced Interdisciplinary Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Studies in Middle Eastern Literature and Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>503</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Studies in Asian Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>504</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Women in World Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>506</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Studies in Eastern European Literature and Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>530</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>531</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Medieval Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>532</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Continental Renaissance Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>535</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Literature of the Enlightenment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>537</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Romantic Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>538</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20th-Century European Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>540</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Latin American Literature Studies (Variable Topics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>545</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>American Folklore Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>548</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Comparative Studies (Variable Topics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>549</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Critical Studies in Major Continental Writers (Variable Topics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>552</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Studies in Mythology (Variable Topics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>553</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fairy Tales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>561</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Topics in Contemporary Literary Criticism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Undergraduate Courses

Higher qualitative and quantitative standards apply to graduate students in undergraduate courses. In courses double-numbered (400/500), the MA program counts only the 500 level. Only the 400-level classes listed below have advance approval for MA credit. For information on how to get a course approved for graduate credit, see p.6 under “Upper-Division and Graduate Courses.”

English Department Undergraduate Courses Pre-Approved for Graduate Credit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>463</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Shakespeare II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>469</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Critical Studies in Major English Writers (Variable Topics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>479</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Critical Studies in Major American Writers (Variable Topics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>488</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Topics in Rhetoric and Writing Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>489</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Critical Studies in Major Topics in Literatures Written in English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>496</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>California Writing Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>497</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Directed Studies in Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>498</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Topics in English (Variable Topics)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is it?
The procedure known as “Advancement to Candidacy” certifies that the Department recommends a student to the College of Liberal Arts as a candidate for the MA degree. With the aid of an advisor, the student sets up a formal program of study signed by the student, the advisor, the Graduate Advisor, the English Department Chair, and the Associate Dean for Instructional Policy of the College of Liberal Arts. This step determines the University Catalog under which a student will complete the MA program. After advancement, candidates cannot be held to any new requirements for the degree. If students want to change their programs after advancing, however, they may do so by filling out a change of program form, available from the Graduate Secretary. Note: students planning to write theses must have their thesis proposals approved before advancing to candidacy.

When should students apply?
Advancement is possible after completion of six units toward the MA degree. Students must be advanced to candidacy at least one semester before they intend to graduate, before the deadline to file for graduation that semester. If a student is writing a thesis, he or she must be advanced before any thesis units are taken.

What if a student plans to complete the MA program in one year?
Students who elect to complete the MA program in one year may request to be advanced to candidacy the same semester that they graduate; they should file a Graduation Application Card when they begin the program. Students who have such plans should consult with the Graduate Advisor upon entering the program.

What are the Advancement to Candidacy requirements?
The requirements for Advancement to Candidacy are as follows:

1. A current transcript showing a grade point average of 3.0 (B) or better, both in the MA program and overall in upper-division and graduate courses taken as a post-baccalaureate student.

2. Completion of at least six units of course work acceptable for the MA in English at CSULB with a GPA of 3.0 or above.

3. Passing CSULB’s Writing Proficiency Examination (administered by the Testing Office five times a year). New MA students must take the WPE during their first semester or a hold will be placed on all their future registration privileges. If reciprocity agreements are in effect between CSULB and other universities regarding the WPE at the undergraduate level, they will be recognized at the graduate level as well. Note: the Department must have your official WPE letter for your file. For information call the Testing Office at (562) 985-4006.

4. Enrollment in regular course work at the time of Advancement to Candidacy.

5. For students who wish to write a thesis, the thesis proposal must be approved (for approval process, see p.14 under “Option Two: The Thesis”).
ADDITIONAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

GPA Information
The University calculates two different GPAs for post-baccalaureate students. The first GPA comprises all upper-division and graduate-level courses taken after earning your bachelor's degree (your overall post-bac GPA). The second comprises just the courses that make up your MA program (your program GPA).

GPA Maintenance
Students are required to maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better both in the MA program and in all upper-division and graduate courses taken at CSULB as a post-baccalaureate student. Graduate students are subject to dismissal from the University if they fail to raise their overall GPA to 3.0 after two semesters on probation. A student who has been disqualified must reapply to the University. As the Catalog states, “subsequent removal of GPA deficiencies . . . does not guarantee readmission to CSULB.” The Graduate Advisor, in consultation with the Graduate Studies Committee, will decide whether or not to readmit students who have been on probation or academically disqualified from the MA in English program.

Upper-Division and Graduate Course Grading
Credit/No Credit grading is not available in upper-division or graduate courses, with few specified exceptions such as teacher training. It is acceptable for lower-division courses, such as 100-200-level foreign language classes, which do not affect a graduate student’s overall GPA.

Incomplete Course Grades
Graduate students should avoid “I” (Incomplete) grades in any courses on the graduate program. Any Incomplete grades must be finished within one year from the semester when they were awarded. Students who need to extend the time required to complete a course beyond one year may apply for an extension of the Incomplete grade. The application for extension requires approval by the instructor of the course, the Department Chair, and the Dean of the College. If an Incomplete is not finished within the allotted period, it will lapse to an “F” or the grade designated by the instructor. Grades lower than “C” cannot be counted on the MA program and subject a student’s Advancement to Candidacy to cancellation.

Continuous CSULB Enrollment
Students are required to be continuously enrolled at CSULB to acquire the MA degree. Students who are absent for twelve consecutive months break the continuous enrollment and must apply for readmission. Students previously Advanced to Candidacy must satisfy any new requirements in effect at the time of readmission and may have to petition through the Graduate Advisor for reinstatement in the program by the Associate Vice President. To avoid such problems, if you know you must break enrollment temporarily, you should submit in advance an Educational Leave Form to the Office of Enrollment Services. Consult the University Catalog for further information on policies governing “Educational Leave.”
Graduate Studies 700
A candidate who has completed course work, but not the comprehensive examination or the thesis, may satisfy the continuous enrollment requirement with a non-credit Extension course, Graduate Studies 700. Students must be registered either in a course or in GS 700 for every semester in which they plan to use University facilities or consult members of the faculty. Registration is also required in Winter or Summer Session if that is when you plan to graduate. Application forms are available in the English Department office. Students should register for GS 700 in the first two weeks of the semester. After two semesters of enrollment in GS 700, students will need the Graduate Advisor’s approval for subsequent enrollment in GS 700.

The Request to Graduate Form
All students must file a Request to Graduate Form. This form is due to the Office of Enrollment Services the semester prior to intended graduation—by March 1 for fall or winter graduation, by October 15 for spring or summer graduation. This form is available only by downloading it from the website of the Office of Enrollment Services:

http://www.csulb.edu/depts/enrollment/assets/pdf/grad_request_masters.pdf

Before filing, students must already have an approved Advancement to Candidacy on file in Enrollment Services. The completed form must be returned to the General Information windows after paying appropriate fees to the Cashier’s Office. No degree can be granted unless this form is filed. Students planning to graduate in one year should file the card at the time of admission.

Seven Year Requirement for Completion of Degree
All students must complete all degree requirements within seven years from the first units earned towards the MA. Courses more than seven years old must be replaced or “revalidated” to count in an MA program. The English Department will revalidate no more than three courses on a student’s Program of Study and will not revalidate any course for which a student earned a grade lower than a “B.” If more than three courses require revalidation, or if the grade for a course is lower than a “B,” the student will have to retake those courses, if it is a requirement for the MA program, or replace it with a current course that completes the student’s Program of Study. To revalidate a course, students must provide a written demonstration of current competence in the subject matter of the course; the specific work to be performed will be assigned by the faculty member who taught the courses, if he or she is available, or by another faculty member in the same or related area of study. Revalidation requires authorization by the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies.
OVERLAPPING CREDENTIAL OR CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS
Some courses carrying credit in the English MA program may also count toward a teaching credential or a certificate program (e.g., Technical and Professional Writing). A student interested in combining such programs should consult both the Graduate Advisor and the advisor of the other program involved to determine which courses may overlap. In such situations, students may wish to take the final comprehensive examination in an Area of Concentration that takes advantage of the overlap, e.g., IX--Rhetoric, Writing, and Composition (see “The Final Comprehensive Examination” section for more information).

FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY

General Overview
Foreign language proficiency is required as an adjunct to graduate study in English for several reasons. Knowledge of a second language offers a second window of perception on the world. It puts into perspective the logic and illogic of one’s first language. It offers acquaintanceship with another literature not distorted by translation. It also makes possible research into scholarly and critical writing about the English language and its literatures not available in translation.

Foreign Language Requirements
Candidates must complete the foreign language requirement or be enrolled in the final units of the requirement before taking final comprehensive examinations. The foreign language proficiency requirement may be fulfilled in ONE of the following three ways:

1. Complete college course work in or receive credit for a foreign language equivalent to sophomore proficiency (normally 201B at this University) with a grade of “C” or better.

2. Complete college course work in or receive credit for a foreign language equivalent to freshman proficiency (101B) with a grade of “C” or better AND complete either English 550: Old English or English 551: Middle English with a grade of “B” or better. Either or both of the English courses may be counted toward the minimum 30 units for the degree (students should note that English 550 and 551 require a prerequisite course, English 461, or permission of the instructor).

3. Provide evidence of proficiency equivalent to a 201B foreign language course, or demonstrate native proficiency in a foreign language accepted by the Graduate Studies Committee.

Unlike almost all upper-division and graduate courses, lower-division foreign language courses may be taken CR/NC.
THE FINAL DEGREE REQUIREMENT

General Requirement Information
The final requirement for the degree of Master of Arts in English is either:

1. A final comprehensive examination, OR

Students who wish to change to the comprehensive exam option after taking 698 units must confer with the Graduate Advisor, who will seek approval from the College of Liberal Arts Dean. In these cases, the RP grade(s) the student received for any 698 units will remain on the transcript without being changed to a letter grade. Students may not change options after failing either the thesis or the comprehensive examination.

Option One: The Final Comprehensive Examination

The final comprehensive examination is a three-hour essay that serves as a capstone of the 30-unit program of study. Students must have completed all program requirements or be enrolled in their final courses the semester they take the examination. Because students must be enrolled at the University in the semester the examination is taken, those who have finished their course work should enroll in GS 700 (see p. 12). Early that semester, the candidate should apply to the English Department Office to take the examination and specify the area to be covered. Two months prior to the examination date, candidates will be supplied with four questions from their area of study and will be told who their three readers will be. Each candidate may reject two of the four questions. At the examination, the student will be told which one of the remaining two questions to address in an essay, demonstrating familiarity with both primary and secondary sources. Students are encouraged, but not required, to write the examination on a computer.

Examination Objectives
The examination gives candidates the opportunity to synthesize their learning and to demonstrate their analytical and interpretive skills. More specifically, it requires students:

To show their ability to write a complete essay that demonstrates a comprehensive and deep understanding of a particular field in British or American literature or rhetoric and
composition. The essay will measure knowledge, analytical ability, and writing capabilities.

Examination Objectives (cont.)
To show comprehension of, and familiarity with, a breadth of both primary and secondary materials within the area of study. Thus the essay will provide evidence of the student’s ability to use library resources.

To show connections and distinctions within the area of study. The essay will encourage the student to draw from the coursework that has formed the student’s program of study.

Examination Areas
The examination tests a candidate’s mastery of one of the nine following areas, which the candidate selects on the basis of intensive study, including course work at the graduate level. Students should be aware, however, that 600-level seminars are not survey courses, but typically involve in-depth studies in a portion of the subject named in the course title.

Area I Old and Middle English Language and Literature
Area II English Literature of the Renaissance
Area III English Literature of the Restoration and 18th Century
Area IV English Literature of the 19th Century
Area V English Literature since 1900
Area VI American Literature before 1900
Area VII American Literature since 1900
Area VIII Literary Genre (poetry, fiction, or drama) or Critical Theory.*
Area IX Rhetoric, Writing, and Composition

Further Information about Examination
Each exam is read by three faculty members who specialize in the selected area. Readers rate the examination as O (Outstanding), P+ (Pass Plus), P (Passing), P- (Pass Minus), or NP (Not Passing); however, final scores consist of only outstanding, passing, or not passing. An ‘outstanding’ exam must receive two or more O ratings; a ‘passing’ exam must receive at least two passing ratings (P-, P, P+, or O); a “not passing” exam is one that receives two or more NP ratings. Students assigned a grade of NP may petition the Graduate Studies Committee to take the examination a second time. An unsatisfactory performance on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the graduate program.

Students who sign up for and later decide to withdraw from the exam must notify the graduate secretary no later than 24 hours before the exam. Failure to report one’s decision to withdraw from the exam by this time will result in a “no pass” score. Similarly, if a student attends the exam and then leaves without finishing, he or she will receive a “no pass” score. Students may petition the Graduate Studies Committee to be exempted from either of these rules if they can claim that serious, unforeseen medical or personal problems prevented them from attending (and notifying the English Department of their inability to attend) or completing the exam.

*Literary Genre covers the tradition of a genre in both English and American literature, and Critical Theory covers various approaches from classical to contemporary. As in other
areas, students will have a choice of questions that allows them to focus on specific authors, theorists, and topics within each area.

Option Two: The Thesis

Students interested in pursuing the thesis option should be aware that writing a thesis is an intensive experience requiring a significant commitment of time and usually requires at least 3 semesters to complete. They should plan ahead accordingly and begin by consulting with a potential thesis committee chair.

Before a student can advance to candidacy with a thesis option or begin taking 698 units, she or he must prepare a formal prospectus with a substantial bibliography for the proposed thesis committee. The prospectus should explain the student’s topic, works to be treated, preliminary thesis or central line of argument, and suggested breakdown of chapters. It should also convey a sense of previous scholarship in this field and indicate the methodology and the major theorists or critical traditions that will be employed.

For more expansive and specific guidelines on the prospectus, students should consult the hand-out available through the MA program’s website and in the graduate secretary's office and speak directly with their prospective committee. After having time to review the prospectus, the three potential committee members will meet with the student to discuss the project. Together, student and committee will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the thesis as set forth in the prospectus and bibliography. Other topics addressed will include a time frame for completing the thesis and the committee’s division of labor.

The committee will then confer and decide whether or not to approve the thesis project as proposed. The committee may decide that more work needs to be done before the prospectus can be approved. If the committee members do approve the project, they will sign the 698 form at that time.

Other thesis regulations are detailed in the section on Graduate Study in the University Catalog. Essentials include the following:

1. A student must be Advanced to Candidacy before enrolling in 698 (Thesis).
2. The six units of English 698 (Thesis) may not be used to satisfy MA requirements for 600-level seminars.
3. A student who takes English 698 (Thesis) may also use English 697 (Directed Research) as part of the minimum 30 units of the MA program. However, because University policy states that a maximum of six units shall be allowed for a thesis; English 698 and English 697 cannot be taken for the same project.

MFA Degree

The MFA provides intensive training in creative writing and is a separate degree program from the MA in English. Students interested in applying to the MFA program should consult the current MFA Advisor. The graduate secretary can also answer some
questions and provide brochures and application forms.

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**APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

- Submit application to CSULB, Office of Enrollment Services for post-baccalaureate study
- Send transcripts from all universities attended to Office of Enrollment Services
- Submit second set of transcripts to English Department

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**PREREQUISITES**

For admission to the University as a Graduate Student:

- Acquire BA from an accredited institution
- Maintain 2.5 GPA in last 60 units
- Possess proof of “good standing” at last institution attended

For full admission to the MA Program in English:

- Gain admission to the University as a Graduate Student
- 3.3 GPA in all upper division and graduate courses in English

Possess 21 Upper-Division units equivalent to CSULB English BA
MINIMUM COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There is a 30 unit minimum. Twenty-four units in English are required: 20 units in English at the 600-level—including 696* and one seminar in British Literature before 1800.

4 more units in English at the 500-/600- OR 400-level**.

6 more units in English OR outside English**.

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English 696 is a prerequisite for other 600 seminars; it may, however, be taken concurrently with other 600 seminars. English 697 and 698 may not be applied to the minimum 20 units. Note that students who are approved for a technical and professional writing thesis may have different course requirements at the 600-level. See your advisor for specifics.

Courses must be approved for graduate credit. Only 9 units of 400-level coursework may be used towards the 30 unit requirement.
Pass Writing Proficiency Examination

Advance to Candidacy (before graduation semester)

Maintain a 3.0 GPA in MA Program

Maintain a 3.0 GPA in post-baccalaureate, upper-division and graduate courses

Maintain continuous residency. If residency is not maintained, be sure to acquire:

Educational Leave

Reinstatement

Meet Foreign Language Requirements

Complete Final Comprehensive Examination or Thesis

Complete all work within 7 years from first MA credits

Submit Request to Graduate form (the semester before graduation)
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH:

WWW.CSULB.EDU/ENGLISH